

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSC-05 /060 W

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R 270858Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2526

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 2844

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

REF: MANILA 1797

1. DURING COURSE MEETING WITH LABATT ON FEBRUARY 27, ARCHBISHOP OF MANIL JAIME SIN EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS. HE STATED THAT MARCOS, WELL AWARE THAT CHURCH WOULD NOT BACK DOWN ON DIVORCE ISSUE, HAD NOW SHELVED IDEA OF DIVORCE DECREE (SEE REFTTEL). SIN ASSERTED THAT WHILE CHURCH DID NOT WISH TO INFRINGE UPON SOVEREIGNTY OF STATE, NEITHER DID IT WANT TO BE IN A POSITION OF ISOLATION. CHURCH STAND ON DIVORCE WAS "FOR GOOD OF PHILIPPINE COMMUNITY" WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN BITTERLY SPLIT HAD DECREE BEEN ISSUED.

2. SIN ALSO EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT MARCOS HAD DROPPED THREAT OF LEVYING REAL ESTATE TAX ON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WOULD HAVE TO PAY 10 PERCENT TAX ON PROFITS, AND THIS WAS QUITE ACCEPTABLE AS "WE WISH TO PAY OUR SHARE". SIN ADDED THAT MOST OF THEIR SCHOOLS OPERATED WITHOUT PROFIT.

3. COMMENT: IF MARCOS HAS INDEED DECIDED TO LAY LOW ON DIVORCE DECREE ISSUE, IT IS OBVIOUSLY A VICTORY FOR
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CHRUCH. RECENT NCCP STATMENT FROM PROTESTANTS EXPRESSING

"UNEQUIVOCAL BELIEF IN THE SANCITY OF MARRIAGE AND THE
SOLIDARITY OF THE FILIPINO FAMILY" ALSO LENT SUPPORT TO
CHURCH POSITION AGAINST DIVORCE.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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